

April 8, 1950.

Dr. Bernard D. Davis,
411 E. 69 Street
New York 21, N.Y.

Dear Bernie:

I just received your letter concerning Miss Oahn's predicament. As you must have anticipated would be likely, it is rather late in the year for such appointments, and we are already committed to the hilt for space, as much as for assistantship funds. The only thing that might be suggested is that she fill out the enclosed forms, and return it, and the indicated documents, to me. If anything unforeseen comes up (and this would not be unprecedented) by way of a vacancy, we would then be in a position to act promptly on her application. But otherwise, I can't see anything hopeful for 1950-51. By the summer of '51, however, I expect to inherit some more space, which would alter the picture.

As you probably heard, Ellen Karm is in the same predicament. Do you know what happened down in Kansas?

Your recovery of Lac- mutants is at just about the rate that I usually find. Evelyn Witkin has been doing some similar work, and she mentioned that H/r gives a much higher yield of Lac- mutants (i.e. intact and mosaic) than does K-12 after irradiation.

I can't think of any special use we would have for a stable K-12 Lac-. As the enclosed abstract may remind you, this has been Esther's problem, and we have some dozens of such mutants in a variety of stocks. Has the ~~recombination of Lac- with a suppressor~~ ^{recombination of Lac- with a suppressor} with EMB, I don't know whether these have been satisfactorily settled, but only lately, after some shopping around, I found a source of Eosin Y satisfactory for EMB, at a very low price. See attached note.

Our letters must have crossed: am hoping to hear your comments soon.

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg

Enc:
abstract
Eosin Y
Fellowship application